



Honorary Retirees

Honorary retirees are those members of the Reserve components who are at least 37 years of age, have a minimum of eight years of service, who consistently supported the armed forces in an outstanding manner but were unable to continue a career in the Reserve components, and therefore cannot qualify for retired pay. These retirees were issued a retirement order that reflected "Honorable Service" in the Reserves and authorized issue of a DD Form 2 (Reserve) identification (ID) card.

There has been confusion for many years about the status of various members in the Retired Reserve categories that permitted many honorary retirees to obtain identification (ID) card benefits to which they were not entitled i.e., the DD Form 2 (Retired). In 1988, the Sixth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation recommended that measures be taken to prevent the inadvertent issuance of retiree ID cards (DD Form 2 (Retired)) to honorary retirees. Since December 1990, individuals who qualify as honorary retirees have been issued a Certificate of Retirement in lieu of military ID cards.

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1991 enacted changes to Title 10, United States Code, by providing exchange and morale, welfare and recreation privileges to certain members of the Ready Reserve, including members of the Retired Reserves awaiting pay at age 60. This meant the DD Form 2 (Reserve) was no longer a non-benefits ID card. There was no mass confiscation of DD Forms 2 (Reserve) concerning Air Force honorary retirees when the law was enacted; however when an agency learns that a person had an ID card they are no longer entitled to, the recipient had been asked to surrender the card and the card was not replaced.

When you review an order that reflects Honorable Service and authorizes issue of a DD Form 2 (Reserve), the member is most likely an honorary retiree and is not entitled to an ID card. Other warning signs which should alert verifying officers are, the member is not enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) as all honorary retirees have been removed from DEERS; and member is not receiving retired pay. Unless a Reserve member is a member of the Retired Reserve awaiting pay at age 60 and enrolled in DEERS as a Gray area retiree (RESRET), they are not entitled to an ID card. If you are unsure, please contact the Air Force or Air Force Reserve Project Office.